

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REACTION OCTOBER 16

1. AL-AHRAM JUXTAPOSED IN ONE HEADLINE WASHINGTON'S "THREATS TO INTERVENE TO SAFEGUARD ISRAEL'S SECURITY" AND MOSCOW'S "COMMITMENT TO AID ARABS BY ALL MEANS TO LIBERATE THEIR LANDS." WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW STANDS WERE AMONG SIX BANNER-HEADS CAPPING MAIN THREE-COLUMN STORY SUMMARIZING WAR DEVELOPMENTS.

2. LOWER RIGHT FRONT PAGE INCLUDED WASHINGTON WIRE SERVICE REPORT STATING "US, ACCORDING TO STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT, BEGAN SENDING HEAVY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ISRAEL TWO DAYS AGO." STORY QUOTED MCCLOSKEY SAYING US OBJECTIVE IS "TO RESTORE MILITARY BALANCE IN MIDEAST REGION."

3. AL-AHRAM ALSO REPORTED IN TWO-COLUMN, FRONT-PAGE STORY NIXON'S "HINTS" THAT "US GUARANTEES ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY AGAINST DANGER CAUSED BY MIDEAST WAR." WASHINGTON WIRE SERVICE REPORT ADDED THAT NIXON DID NOT SPEAK DIRECTLY ABOUT PROBABILITY OF US INTERVENTION, BUT SAID US POLICY WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT FOLLOWED IN 1958 IN LEBANON AND IN 1970 IN JORDAN. CONTINUATION INSIDE

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QUOTED MCCLOSKEY SAYING NIXON'S STATEMENTS DO NOT "ENCOURAGE"

ASSUMING US IS THREATENING TO SEND FORCES TO MIDEAST.
FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL COMMENTED ON ABOVE REPORT SAYING US
CANNOT PLACE TROOPS ALONGSIDE ISRAELI TROOPS IN ARAB LANDS
WITHOUT FIGHTING ENTIRE ARAB NATION" AND IT CANNOT REPEAT
1956 ANGLO-AMERICAN SUBTERFUGE "TO SEPARATE FIGHTING PARTIES."
IN SECURITY COUNCIL, EDITORIAL ADDED, US "WILL FACE CERTAIN
REJECTION."

4. AL-AHRAM FEATURE PAGE CARRIED FOLLOWING REPORTS BY US
COMMENTATORS:

(A) JOHN FINNEY, NEW YORK TIMES: US DECIDED TO RESUPPLY
ISRAEL AFTER "CERTAINTY THAT FIGHT WILL BE PROLONGED AND
ISRAELI AIR FORCE IS GETTING WEAKER."

(B) GEORGE SHERMAN, MILITARY EDITOR, WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS:
"ISRAEL HAS LOST ONE-THIRD OF AIR AND ARMORED STRENGTH THUS
FAR."

(C) US MILITARY EXPERT DREW MIDDLETON; "ISRAEL IS
EXPECTING ELECTRONIC DEVICES US USED IN VIETNAM."

(D) LESLY GELB-SENATOR JACKSON VIEW THAT "US SHOULD
SUPPORT ISRAEL FIRMLY." ON OTHER HAND, GELB ARTICLE SAID,
SENATOR FULBRIGHT BELIEVES BIG BATTLE SHOULD BE AVOIDED IN
SINAI AND EGYPTIANS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAY WHERE THEY ARE.

5. AL-AHRAM FOREIGN PAGE CONTAINED BRIEF ITEMS ON BOND
DRIVES IN US AND CANADA FOR ISRAEL AND CHARGES BY ARAB
AMBASSADORS IN PARIS THAT PRO-ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS ARE
MOBILIZING EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS TO JOIN "ANTI-ARAB
AGGRESSION."

6. MAIN EDITORIAL IN AL-AHRAM URGED ALL ARAB COUNTRIES TO
"COUNTERACT US CHALLENGE TO ARAB NATIONS; NAMELY, DENOUNCING
OFFICIAL INTERVENTION BY SUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH ARMS."

7. TWO AL-AKHBAR BANNERHEADS TREATED "US ANNOUNCEMENT
TO RESUPPLY ISRAEL, NIXON'S ARMED INTERVENTION "THREAT"
AND SOVIET "DETERMINATION TO HELP ARABS BY ALL MEANS."
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LEAD TWO-COLUMN STORY SAID SADAT'S ADDRESS TUESDAY AFTERNOON
IS IN RESPONSE TO US ARMS RESUPPLY TO ISRAEL AND NIXON'S
"INDIRECT" INTERVENTION THREAT. ANOTHER TWO-COLUMN REPORT
QUOTED WIRE SERVICES IN WASHINGTON REGARDING NIXON'S
"MILITARY INTERVENTION THREAT."

8. AL-AKHBAR'S "DIPLOMATIC REPORTER" MAINTAINED "IF SERIOUS,
NIXON'S THREAT TO USE FORCE MEANS US SEEKS TO FIGHT ENTIRE

ARAB NATION."

9. ANOTHER EDITORIAL ON LOCAL NEWS AND EDITORIAL PAGE SAID US ARMS RESUPPLY TO ISRAEL "MEANS US DOES NOT WANT PEACE IN MIDEAST." COLUMNIST MOHAMED ZAKI ABDEL QADIR SAID US "IS HATED IN ARAB WORLD AND HAS FORCED ARABS TO CARRY ARMS IN DEFENSE OF THEIR LANDS AND DIGNITY."

10. CAIRO OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN CRITICIZED US ARMS RESUPPLY TO ISRAEL IN ONE COLUMN STORY. COVERAGE ALSO INCLUDED WIRE SERVICE REPORT FROM WASHINGTON AND LISBON ON US ARMS AIRLIFT TO ISRAEL.

11. FOREIGN NEWS PAGE CARRIED SHORT WIRE SERVICE ITEM FROM WASHINGTON ON ISRAEL'S REQUEST OF "LATEST MODEL" US AIRCRAFT.

12. SECOND LEADING FRONT-PAGE STORY IN AL-GUMHURIYYA, ATTRIBUTED TO WASHINGTON WIRE SERVICES, DEALT WITH NIXON'S "MILITARY INTERVENTION THREAT" AND BUILDING "US AIRLIFT OF ARMS TO ISRAEL." ON RIGHT OF NIXON "THREAT" AND "AIRLIFT" STORY, AL-GUMHURIYYA PUBLISHED GOE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S COMMENT ON PRO-ISRAELI US STAND.
SMITH

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